As a result of the liquidation within the Russian SFSR of several autonomous units, which had been accused of collaboration with the Germans and of traitorous activities during the Second World War, the Georgian SSR gained about 2,500 square miles of territory on the northern slopes of the Greater Caucasus. It received the southern portion (1,200 square miles) of the abolished Karachay Autonomous Oblast, including the former capital of the oblast, Mikoyan-Shakhar (now renamed Klukhori), and the health resort of Teberda. It also gained the southwestern corner (300 square miles) of the former Balkar-Kabardinian (now Kabardinian) Autonomous SSR, including Mount El'brus, the highest peak of the Caucasus, as well as a 70-mile-long strip of about 1,000 square miles in the south of the former Chechen-Ingush Autonomous SSR. These transfers of territory from the Russian SFSR to the Georgian SSR took place in 1943.

The economic importance of the Georgian SSR lies chiefly in its manganese production, its petroleum-refining industry, and the growing of subtropical products, tobacco and vineyards.

Manganese ore is mined at Chiatura, site of the second largest manganese reserves in the world. Part of the production is utilized in the ferromanganese works of Zestafoni, the first heavy metallurgical installation of the republic, which was based on the power from the Rion hydroelectric station. The rest is exported to other parts of the USSR and abroad via the port of Poti, on the Black Sea. The old coal mines of Tkibuli, west of Chiatura, yield a kind of brown coal, while the Tkvarcheli mines, developed before the Second World War in the Abkhaz Autonomous SSR, supply the growing metallurgical industry of Georgia with good-quality coking coal. Recently other brown-coal mines have been developed near Akhaltsikhe. Petroleum deposits in the Shiraki steppe, in the eastern part of the republic, are being increasingly exploited. The raw fuel is processed in the cracking plant of Mirzaani, located near the fields. Barite deposits near Kutaisi form the basis of an important chemical industry in that city and make that section of Georgia one of the main producers of that mineral in the USSR.

Heavy industry in the Georgian SSR included previously the ferromanganese works of Zestafoni and machinery works in Tbilisi and Kutaisi. It is being developed to a considerable degree during the current Five-Year Plan by the construction of the first Transcaucasian iron and steel mills at Rustavi, on the Kura River, southeast of Tbilisi. Rustavi, now under construction, lies on the right bank of the river, and the plant, which will be supplied from the Dashkesan iron mines, on the opposite

bacco, and raw silk. Wine is also produced in the area south of Tbilisi, with the center at Bolnisi (formerly Lyuksemburgi).

The livestock herds of Georgia graze chiefly in mountain pastures. This is especially true of the sheep and goats. There is some dairy farming in the Kura valley.

The health resorts of the Georgian SSR play an important role in the economy of the country. They fall principally within the mineral springs and climatological varieties and are frequented by tourists and convalescents from the entire USSR. The best-known resorts are Abastumani, in the southwest, the high altitude resorts of Borzhomi (famous for its bottled mineral water) and near-by Bakuriani, and also Surami and Tskhaltubo.

For transportation facilities Georgia relies mainly on the Baku-Tbilisi-Batumi trunk railroad and its many branches. During the Second World War the Black Sea coastal line was completed; it is now used by direct Moscow-Tbilisi trains. Formerly the route led around the eastern end of the Greater Caucasus and via Baku. Short spurs connect the main trunk line with the port of Poti, the mines of Tkibuli and Chiatura, the resort of Borzhomi, and the lignite mines near Akhaltsikhe, as well as with Stalinir, the capital of the South Ossetian Autonomous Oblast. From Navtlug, an eastern suburb of Tbilisi, a branch goes northeast to Kakhetia, and the southern main line leads to the Armenian SSR and the Aras valley. Three important highways cross the central portion of the Greater Caucasus into Georgia. These are the Sukhumi military road, crossing at Klukhori Pass and terminating at Sukhumi on the Black Sea, the Ossetian military road, which leads through Mamison Pass to Kutaisi, and the Georgian military road, which starts at Dzaudzhikau (North Ossetian Autonomous SSR), winds through the picturesque Dar'yal gorge, overcomes the crest at Krestovyy Pass, and has its southern terminus at Mtskheta and Tbilisi.

The principal export products of the Georgian SSR include manganese, lumber, tobacco, fruits (mainly citrus fruits), wine, and tea.

Tbilisi (formerly Tiflis) is the capital of the Georgian SSR and the second largest city and industrial center of Transcaucasia. It is a very old city, which was founded on the historic route leading from Europe to Asia along the Kura valley. It lies at the junction of the Transcaucasian trunk railroad with the Georgian military road. The industry includes machine construction (primarily implements used in oil drilling and the processing of raw silk, wine, and tea), textile milling (silk and

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wool weaving), tanning, and the manufacturing of shoes and clothing. Food processing industries are also important. Tbilisi receives its power from the Zemo-Avchala hydroelectric station (commonly known as *Zages*), located a few miles upstream on the Kura River. It is the site of the Georgian Academy of Sciences, a university, and many technical and scientific institutions. The city extends north and south in the Kura valley. The oldest central part, with narrow, crooked alleys and a typically Asiatic appearance, lies near sulphur springs which have long been used in curative baths. To the north and the south of the central portion extend the modern industrial and residential sections of the capital, including the largest plants and marshaling yards.

Kutaisi, on the Rion River, just above the Rion hydroelectric station, is the largest city and industrial center of Western Georgia, served by a rail spur, highways, and airlines. It manufactures automobile trucks, coal-mining machinery, chemicals (sulphuric acid, lithopone), textiles, and leather goods. Its industrial development received considerable impetus during the post-war Five-Year Plan. The ancient capital of Imeretia, the city was officially called Kutais until 1936.

Rustavi, the newest city of the Georgian SSR and destined to become the fourth largest center of the republic, with an estimated population of 50,000, developed after 1943 and was made a city in 1948. It is the seat of the Transcaucasian steel industry, with a full metallurgical production cycle. Situated southeast of Tbilisi, it consists of a residential right-bank section and an industrial left-bank portion linked by a bridge of the Kura River.

Chiatura (formerly spelled Chiatury), on a rail spur northeast of Kutaisi, is one of the largest manganese-mining centers of the world. Having been exploited since 1879, the mines are now powered by the Rion hydroelectric plant. The manganese supplies the Zestafoni ferromanganese works and is shipped via the Black Sea ports of Poti and Batumi.

Poti, an important port on the Black Sea, in the Kolkhida lowland, acts chiefly as an outlet for the Chiatura manganese mines. It ships also lumber, corn, and wine.

Gori is a fruit-canning and cotton-milling town and the birthplace of Stalin.